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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1700**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Buck, DeBolt, Doumit, Sump, Miloscia, Regala, Radcliff, Barlean, Tokuda, Schoesler, Hatfield, Eickmeyer, Kessler, Mielke, Pennington, Clements, Mastin and Dunn)

Read first time 02/22/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to regional fisheries enhancement groups; amending  
2 RCW 75.50.115; and adding a new section to chapter 75.50 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 75.50 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall provide coordination and technical  
7 assistance to facilitate the application by prospective groups to be  
8 regional fisheries enhancement groups. The department shall provide a  
9 format and guidelines that any prospective group may use to make an  
10 initial application. Prospective groups must submit the applications  
11 to the department. Applications are reviewed by the regional fisheries  
12 enhancement group advisory board under RCW 75.50.115.

13 (2) The department shall designate geographical areas for which  
14 regional fisheries enhancement groups may be formed. In addition to  
15 the regions in existence as of January 1, 1999, the department shall  
16 designate four more regions in eastern Washington for the formation of  
17 a total of sixteen regional fisheries enhancement groups.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 75.50.115 and 1998 c 96 s 1 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) The regional fisheries enhancement group advisory board shall:

4       (a) Assess the training and technical assistance needs of the  
5 regional fisheries enhancement groups;

6       (b) Develop a training and technical assistance services plan in  
7 order to provide timely, topical technical assistance and training  
8 services to regional fisheries enhancement groups. The plan shall be  
9 provided to the director and to the senate and house of representatives  
10 natural resources committees no later than October 1, 1995, and shall  
11 be updated not less than every year. The advisory board shall provide  
12 ample opportunity for the public and interested parties to participate  
13 in the development of the plan. The plan shall include but is not  
14 limited to:

15       (i) Establishment of an information clearinghouse service that is  
16 readily available to regional fisheries enhancement groups. The  
17 information clearinghouse shall collect, collate, and make available a  
18 broad range of information on subjects that affect the development,  
19 implementation, and operation of diverse fisheries and habitat  
20 enhancement projects. The information clearinghouse service may  
21 include periodical news and informational bulletins;

22       (ii) An ongoing program in order to provide direct, on-site  
23 technical assistance and services to regional fisheries enhancement  
24 groups. The advisory board shall assist regional fisheries enhancement  
25 groups in soliciting federal, state, and local agencies, tribal  
26 governments, institutions of higher education, and private business for  
27 the purpose of providing technical assistance and services to regional  
28 fisheries enhancement group projects; and

29       (iii) A cost estimate for implementing the plan;

30       (c) Propose a budget to the director for operation of the advisory  
31 board and implementation of the technical assistance plan;

32       (d) Make recommendations to the director regarding regional  
33 enhancement group project proposals and funding of those proposals;  
34 ((and))

35       (e) Review applications by prospective groups applying for  
36 selection as regional fisheries enhancement groups in regions  
37 designated by the department for the establishment of regional  
38 fisheries enhancement groups. Only one group may be selected as a  
39 regional fisheries enhancement group per region. The advisory board

1 shall recommend to the director which group shall be selected as the  
2 regional fisheries enhancement group for a region; and

3 (f) Establish criteria for the redistribution of unspent project  
4 funds for any regional enhancement group that has a year ending balance  
5 exceeding one hundred thousand dollars.

6 (2) The regional fisheries enhancement group advisory board may:

7 (a) Facilitate resolution of disputes between regional fisheries  
8 enhancement groups and the department;

9 (b) Promote community and governmental partnerships that enhance  
10 the salmon resource and habitat;

11 (c) Promote environmental ethics and watershed stewardship;

12 (d) Advocate for watershed management and restoration;

13 (e) Coordinate regional fisheries enhancement group workshops and  
14 training;

15 (f) Monitor and evaluate regional fisheries enhancement projects;

16 (g) Provide guidance to regional fisheries enhancement groups; and

17 (h) Develop recommendations to the director to address identified  
18 impediments to the success of regional fisheries enhancement groups.

19 (3)(a) The regional fisheries enhancement group advisory board  
20 shall develop recommendations for limitations on the amount of overhead  
21 that a regional fisheries enhancement group may charge from each of the  
22 following categories of funding provided to the group:

23 (i) Federal funds;

24 (ii) State funds;

25 (iii) Local funds; and

26 (iv) Private donations.

27 (b) The advisory board shall develop recommendations for  
28 limitations on the number and salary of paid employees that are  
29 employed by a regional fisheries enhancement group. The regional  
30 fisheries enhancement group advisory board shall adhere to the founding  
31 principles for regional groups that emphasize the volunteer nature of  
32 the groups, maximization of field-related fishery resource benefits,  
33 and minimization of overhead.

34 (c) The advisory board shall evaluate and make recommendations for  
35 the limitation or elimination of commissions, finders fees, or other  
36 reimbursements to regional fisheries enhancement group employees.

37 ~~((d) The regional fisheries enhancement group advisory board shall~~  
38 ~~report to the appropriate legislative committees by January 1, 1999, on~~  
39 ~~the board recommendations for overhead limitations, paid employee~~

- 1 ~~limitations, and commission limitations for regional fisheries~~
- 2 ~~enhancement groups.)~~)

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